REMARKS

Claims 1 - 3, 5 - 12 and 14 - 22 are in the application and are presented for consideration. By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claim 4 and included features regarding the feed unit in claim 1. Changes have been made to claim 3 to highlight important aspects of the invention. Claim 8 has been amended to highlight unique aspects of the process including moving the roller in a direction tangential to the second mating roller (namely tangential to the outer circumferential surface of the second mating roller). Changes have been made to claim 10 based on the amended claim 8. Claim 11 has been revised to include features of claim 13. Claim 13 has now been canceled. New dependent claims 18 - 22 have been added to highlight further important aspects of the invention.

Claims 1, 2, 4 - 9, 11, 12 and 14 - 17 have been rejected as anticipated by Koppelkamm et al. (U.S. 5,806,428).

The Koppelkamm et al. reference discloses an inking unit with plural inking rollers mounted to a frame and spaced away from each other. A transfer roller is mounted between the two inking rollers. The transfer roller can be pivoted into and out of an operating position between the inking rollers. Since the transfer roller is in contact with the inking roller 6 throughout the pivoting movement, the transfer roller 7 moves in a circumferential direction of the roller 6.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to highlight an important combination of features including the feed unit which is positionable in a bisecting line position of the bisecting line that bisects an angle between the first mating cylinder and the second mating cylinder. This is a

structural combination which is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art as a whole. With this structure the engaging pressure provided by the feed unit acts approximately uniformly on the two mating cylinders. In this way the nip ratio between the mating cylinders is approximately equal. This combination of features is clearly neither taught nor suggested by the prior art as a whole. As now further highlighted in claim 3 the nip ratio can be changed by deflecting the feed unit or the element provided for generating the engaging pressure, such as the spring, from the mentioned bisecting line. As pointed out at paragraph [0019] this allows the system to generate, for example, a greater nip width in one mating cylinder than in another mating cylinder.

The prior art does not suggest the combination of features of claim 1 and does not attain the advantages of this combination. Most notably, with the invention, it is possible for the application roller 1 (the roller of claim 1) to be maintained in contact with the distributor roller 4 (the second mating roller of claim 1) in a state where the application roller 1 is engaged with the plate cylinder 3 and also in a state in which the application roller 1 is not engaged with the plate cylinder 3. This circumferential movement allows the application roller 1 to stay in a wet or inked state-preventing it from running dry. Further, a fine tuning and adjustment of the nip pressure is possible with the feed unit wherein this can be made to be evenly distributed based on the positioning of the feed unit at the bisecting line location. Further, the ability to provide a transverse adjustment (an adjustment along the tangent line of the second mating roller or distributor roller 4) allows a changing of the nip distribution or fine tuning of the nip distribution. This presents significant advantages over features taught by the prior art as a

whole.

Revised claim 11 highlights the novel feature of the base unit providing movement of the roller away from the first mating roller in the circumferential direction of the second mating roller and also providing an adjustment and position of the basic unit for moving the engagement roller in a direction parallel to the second mating roller tangential direction (also referred to as in the tangential direction). Claim 8 has also been amended to include the step of moving the roller in a direction tangential to an outer surface of the second mating roller (i.e., direction parallel to the tangent of the second mating roller). It is Applicant's position that the claims as now presented patentably define over the prior art as a whole and consideration of the claims as now presented is requested.

Claims 1 - 17 have been rejected as being anticipated by Heimlicher (U.S. 3,934,508). The rejection includes a rejection of claims 1 and 11 along with a rejection of claims 3 and 13. The features of claim 13 have now been presented in combination with claim 11 and corresponding changes have also been made to claim 8.

The Heimlicher reference discloses a printing press with a roller adjustment apparatus. The basic roller arrangement includes a plate cylinder 1 with a printing plate 2, a hard surface roller 5, a soft surface inking roller 6. The plate cylinder 4 rotates about a central axis but also has an eccentric bearing bush 4 allowing a varying in position of the plate cylinder 1. The roller 5 has an axle 10. The inking roller 6 is connected by a mechanism that includes a slide lever 9. This allows movement driven by a working cylinder (movement drive). Based on this arrangement the inking roller 6 can move about the roller 5, while being maintained in contact

with the roller 5 (moving in a circumferential direction). The sliding nature of the central axis of the inking roller 6 also allows the inking roller to be disengaged from the roller 5 (see Fig. 4). However, it must be pointed out that all movement of the inking roller 6 is either in a circumferential direction relative to roller 5 or is in a radial direction relative to roller 5. As such, there is no teaching and no suggestion of moving the roller 5 in a direction tangential to an outer surface of the second mating roller (namely in a direction parallel to the tangent line of the mating roller). All movement of the roller 6 is in a circumferential direction of roller 5 via pivoting at pivot 10 or it is possible to move the inking roller 6 radially in a slide direction along the slide path provided by the lever 9.

The features highlighted in claims 11 and 8 including the structure for moving in the circumferential direction and the structure for moving in the tangential direction is significant as it allows the roller 1 (application roller or inking roller) to be engaged from and disengaged from the plate cylinder 3 while staying wet (with inking being maintained, to avoid a drying up of the roller). This is provided by the circumferential movement of roller 1 allowing it to be maintained in contact with roller 4. However, in addition to this, it is possible to adjust the position of roller 1 in a tangential direction (namely a direction parallel to the tangent of roller 4 - the second mating roller) whereby it is possible to change the nip distribution, namely to provide a greater nip width between one of the first mating cylinder and the roller or between the second mating cylinder and the roller.

Applicant's claims as presented provide a combination of features which is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests favorable

consideration of the claims as now presented. Favorable action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant,

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Attached: Petition for One Month Extension of Time

SHOULD ANY OTHER FEE BE REQUIRED, THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE IS HEREBY REQUESTED TO CHARGE SUCH FEE TO OUR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 13-0410.

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